

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OPR-02 CU-02 SCCT-01 AID-05 SCS-03

SCA-01 USSS-00 DHA-02 OC-05 CCO-00 A-01 PC-01 SY-05

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O R 012306Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8753

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 3079

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PGOV, PINT,PORS

SUBJECT: FURTHER ON STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS UND DEATHS

REF: SAN SALVADOR 3042

1. PRESIDENT MOLINA HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE ON AUGUST 1 TO EXPLAIN THE REGIME'S POSITION ON THE EVENTS OF WEDNESDAY WHICH SAW A UES STUDENT PROTEST MARCH END IN THE DEATHS OF AT LEAST FIVE OF THE MARCHERS, AND THE WOUNDING AND DETENTION OF MANY MORE.

2. PRESIDENT MOLINA LED OFF BY CLAIMING THE GOES HAS IN ITS POSSESSION DOCUMENTS WHICH DEFINITELY PROVE THAT EL SALVADOR AND HIS GOVERNMENT ARE THE TARGETS OF AN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST PLOT, WHOSE WILLING AGENTS AND COLLABORATORS IN THIS COUNTRY INCLUDE NOT ONLY THE PCS, BUT ALSO THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (PDC) AND ITS UNO COLATION PARTNERS, THE MNR AND THE

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UDN. HE ALSO IMPLICATED A NEW EXTREMIST ORGANIZATION THE PARTIDO

REVOLUCIONARY SALVADORENO AND ITS MILITANT ARM, THE ERP, (WHICH CLAIMED CREDIT FOR THE DE SOLA KIDNAPPING OF LATE JUNE), AGEUS (ORGANIZERS OF THE STUDENT MARCH), ANDES (THE NATIONAL TEACHERS UNION) AND OTHER OPPOSITION ORGANIZATIONS.

3. MOLINA READ PORTIONS OF VARIOUS DOCUMENTS WHICH HE CLAIMED PROVED THE WEB OF CONSPIRACY. FIRST WAS A PORTION OF THE GENERAL ACTION PLAN OF THE PCS, ISSUED IN MAY 1975. HE FOLLOWED THIS WITH SELECTED READINGS FROM UNO AND PDC NATIONAL STRATEGY STATEMENTS PRESENTED FOR STUDY AND DISCUSSION AT PLANNING SESSIONS AS RECENTLY AS JULY 1975. HE ALSO QUOTED WORDS FROM A RECENT SPEECH OF THE PDC'S 1972 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE NAPOLEON DUARTE TO AN INTERNATIONAL CD YOUTH CONFERENCE. ACCORDING TO MOLINA, THESE OPPOSITION PARTIES ARE FINANCED AND DIRECTED FROM ABROAD, AND ARE ENGAGED IN A WELL COORDINATED CONSPIRACY TO COME TO POWER VIA THE BALLOT BOX, BY PROVOKING MASSIVE CIVIL DISORDER AND CHAOS.

4. TURNING TO THE SPECIFICS OF WEDNESDAY'S MARCH, THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT HIS REGIME HAS REPEATEDLY, CONSISTENTLY AND FIRMLY WARNED STUDENTS, PARENTS AND OPPOSITION ELEMENTS THAT IT WOULD NOT TOLERATE UNLAWFUL PROTEST DEMONSTRATION. (HE REFERRED TO THE MISS UNIVERSE PAGEANT ARGUMENT DESCRIBED IN REFTTEL.) NOTWITHSTANDING THIS WARNING, THE STUDENT PROVOCATEURS INSISTED ON LEAVING THE CAMPUSES, FIRST IN SANTA ANA LAST WEEK, AND AGAIN IN EL SALVADOR LAST WEDNESDAY. MOLINA SAID HIS GOVERNMENT HAS PROOF THAT UDN AND PDC DEPUTIES WERE MARCHING IN BOTH MANIFESTATIONS, EVIDENCE, HE CLAIMED, OF THEIR WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN ILLEGAL ACTS.

5. WHILE DEPLORING THE STUDENT DEATHS THAT RESULTED, MOLINA SAID THERE WAS NO DOUBT FULL JUSTIFICATION FOR THE NATIONAL GUARD HAVING FIRED UPON THE MARCHERS -- FIRST THE MARCH WAS UNLAWFUL; NEXT, THE PROTESTORS FIRST FIRED UPON THE GUARD, USING MOLOTOV COCKTAILS, AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS (SOME OF WHICH MOLINA CLAIMED WERE MORE DEADLY THAN ANY USED BY SALVADORAN SECURITY FORCES). TEARGAS WAS THEN USED TO DISPERSE THE CROWD BEFORE THE TROOPS USED RIFLE FIRE IN SELF PROTECTION.

6. THE PRESIDENT ENDED WITH A STRICT WARNING THAT HIS GOVERNMENT
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MENT WAS PREPARED TO USE THE SAME OR EVEN GREATER FORCE IF NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC ORDER AND SECURITY. HE TOLD PARENTS TO CONTROL THEIR CHILDREN, STUDENTS NOT TO BE DUPED BY OUTSIDE ADITATORS, AND POLITICIANS NOT TO CONFUSE PARTISAN POLITICS WITH MATTERS OF VITAL NATIONAL CONCERN.

6. COMMENT - THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH, IN TONE AND CONTENT, WAS HARSH AND NON-CONCILIATORY. HE DIDN'T MINCE WORDS WHEN HE ACCUSED

THE PDC OF BEING WILLING TO RESORT TO VIOLENCE, AND ALLY ITSELF WITH EXTREMISTS, TO ASSUME POWER.

THE SPEECH, AT A MINIMUM, WAS A STRONG WARNING TO THOSE WHO OPPOSE HIM TO MIND THEIR MANNERS, AND TO THE PDC TO STAY OUT OF ANYTHING THAT SMACKS OF ILLEGAL OR AGITATIONAL ACTIVITY. THE PRESIDENT'S WORDS COULD ALSO BE INTERPRETED AS A WARNING TO THE OPPOSITION PARTIES NAMED THAT IF THEY PERSIST IN ILLEGAL OR AGITATIONAL ACTIVITIES THEY WOULD BE DECLARED ILLEGAL IN THAT THEY VIOLATE THE JURIDICAL PROHIBITION AGAINST "POLITICAL PARTIES WITH FOREIGN AFFILIATIONS". SUCH A BAN WOULD GO A LONG WAY TO ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR 1976 AND 1977.

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